From: Simmons, Denise
To: Vered Ben-Anat
Subject: Re: Please vote NO regarding the proposed BDS boycott against Israel and HP
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 5:40:44 PM

Dear Vered Ben-Anat,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that **this will only appear on the City Council's agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it.** We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online on the Thursday evening around 5:30 pm prior to the Monday City Council meeting (indeed, I had originally heard that the organization looking to have this sponsored was looking to get this placed on the agenda for April 23, but they may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for drafting this resolution, for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, nor even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. None of these scenarios are accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration *unless and until* a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Vered Ben-Anat <veredi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 5:30 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Please vote NO regarding the proposed BDS boycott against Israel and HP

Dear Cambridge City Council members,

I respectfully oppose the lack of transparency and unfair singling out of Israel in this City Council Vote. As someone who is concerned about the city I live in and its public image, this resolution will have implications beyond Hewlett-Packard and, if adopted, would tarnish the reputation of my city.

The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

In this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization. If the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world, the issue of an ethical double standard would not be raised.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal we share but will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Thank you,

-Vered Ben-Anat
20 Clay street, Cambridge, MA